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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

Delaware Main Street Presents First-Ever Awards *Six Individuals Recognized*

Dover, Del. (June 6, 2007) - Delaware Main Street, a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office, recognized seven industry professionals during the Ninth Annual Delaware Preservation Conference, held in Dover, Del. at the Schwartz Center for the Arts. The awards were presented for the first time to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the growth and health of Delaware's Main Street towns.

"These awards offer us an opportunity to take a brief moment to recognize several people who have made an ongoing commitment to the success of Delaware Main Street," said Diane Laird, Delaware Main Street Program State Coordinator. "These are people who wake up every morning thinking about how to bring positive change to their respective downtowns."

The conference was sponsored by Preservation Delaware, Inc., Delaware Main Street, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the First State Heritage Park at Dover, and Homesey Architects. The awards were presented by Diane Laird. The first recipients of the Delaware Main Street awards are:

1. **Fay Jacobs**, Executive Director of Rehoboth Beach Main Street
2. **Lorraine Dion**, Middletown Main Street's Program Manager
3. **Maureen Feeney-Roser**, Administrator of the Downtown Newark Partnership
4. **Paul Lakeman** and **Ed Perez**, Board President and Executive Director, respectively, of Main Street Dover

Delaware Main Street presented an additional award to **David G. Menser**, who led the revitalization efforts of Wilmington's North Market Street neighborhood, Greater Brandywine Village. He initiated the urban Main Street program, which has completed streetscape improvements, transformed a highly visible drug-trafficking area into a beautiful park, cleaned-up a site of a former gas station, and worked to replace derelict housing with new homes in the community. The David G. Menser award was named in

his honor. It will be presented in the future to individuals who drive local revitalization efforts of a volunteer and grassroots level.

For more information about Delaware Main Street, contact Diane Laird at 302-672-6834 or by e-mail at Diane.Laird@state.de.us.

About Delaware Main Street

Delaware Main Street, a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office, provides Delaware's historic commercial districts with the tools to promote economic stability in business and workforce and to retain and enhance their downtowns unique sense of place.

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